



U.S. Department of Justice

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EVENT: Guilty Plea

Defendant: Elise Love and Gina Solomon

BANK MANAGER, ACCOMPLICE, FOUND GUILTY OF BANK FRAUD

A former branch manager of Sterling Bank and Trust in Dearborn, Michigan was found guilty today, along with an accomplice, of bank fraud by a federal jury in Detroit, announced United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy.

Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent In Charge of the Detroit Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Found guilty was Elise Love, 54, of Detroit, the branch manager for Sterling Bank and Trust. Love was found guilty of bank fraud, aiding and abetting, and embezzlement.

Gina Solomon, 32, of Detroit was also found guilty of bank fraud, and aiding and abetting.

The jury deliberated for approximately three hours before returning the verdict, concluding a three-day trial before United States District Judge George Caram Steeh.

The evidence presented at trial showed that on April 22, 2002, May 9, 2002 and June 1, 2002 Love and Solomon were responsible for causing three separate cashier's checks totaling \$86,000 to be fraudulently drawn on the account of an 85-year-old victim. The evidence demonstrated that the victim's signature was forged on withdrawal slips which were used to generate the cashier's checks. The cashier's checks were then provided to Solomon who in turn deposited the funds into her own private bank account.

"Embezzlement by a bank manager, particularly involving the theft of funds from the account of a vulnerable senior citizen, is a serious offense deserving the full attention of federal law enforcement. I hope the excellent work of the FBI and this jury will deter any similar conduct and help protect the funds of all citizens who entrust their savings to our federally insured financial institutions," U.S. Attorney Murphy said.

Both charges are felonies and carry a maximum sentence of 30 years imprisonment.

Sentencing for both defendants is scheduled for June 22, 2006.

The case was investigated by agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephanie Dawkins Davis.